

Applying EJ Promising Practices to SDWA UIC Permitting

Methodology

Questions

Meaningful Engagement



Well Injection (Class III & Class V)

- What notice and opportunity for public comment was provided to minority, low-income, and tribal/indigenous populations?
- Was personal notice provided?
- When was the public informed that injection well draft permits were under consideration?

Aquifer Exemption

- What notice and opportunity for public comment was provided to minority, low-income, and tribal/indigenous populations?
- Was personal notice provided?
- How were private wells identified?
- At what point was the public informed that a draft USDW aquifer exemption would be granted?

Scoping Process



- What efforts have been made at government-to-government consultation with tribal representatives, leaders, or officials?

Defining the Affected Environment



Well Injection (Class III & Class V)

- What is the horizontal and lateral relationship between the injection zone and the lowermost underground source of drinking water?
- What is the affected environment for the authorized injection zone?
- What is the area of review for each well?
- Have any unique conditions of the potentially affected population been identified, if so, will those unique conditions change the definition of the affected environment? How?

Aquifer Exemption

- What is the affected environment for the aquifer exemption, including but not limited to the lateral extent of the aquifer containing the portion to be exempted?
- How is lateral confinement of the injected material documented?
- Was lateral displacement of formation fluid caused or allowed by the injection operation considered in the determination of the affected environment?

Methodology	Questions
<p>Developing Alternatives</p> <p>↓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was a "no build" alternative considered? • If so, what weight is given to comments received from the public who support a "no-build" option?
<p>Identifying EJ Populations</p> <p>↓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What data sources and other methods that were used to identify minority, low-income and tribal/indigenous populations?
<p>Impacts Analysis</p> <p>↓</p>	<p><u>Well Injection (Class III & Class V)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was lateral displacement of formation fluid, caused or allowed by the injection operation, considered in the determination of the affected environment? • What current or former private wells exist in the injection zone? • How were abandoned wells in the affected environment determined? List all sources reviewed? Did these sources indicate the date for which records were made of abandoned wells? • What records exist for plugging and abandonment? • How were abandoned wells plugged and abandoned? • How were abandoned wells in the affected environment determined? • How were those wells plugged and abandoned? <p><u>Aquifer Exemption</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the volume of injectate that will remain in the exempted aquifers? • What is the nature of the contaminants that are expected to be injected into the exempted aquifer?

Disproportionately High & Adverse Impacts



- See *Impacts Analysis* questions above and ask whether the potential negative impact could have an disproportionate effect on EJ communities.

Mitigation & Monitoring

Well Injection (Class III & Class V)

- What is the nature of the confining zone between the injection zone, production zone, and USDW?
- How was lateral displacement of formation fluid, caused or allowed by the injection operation, considered in the determination of monitoring procedures?
- How will the public be notified of potential risks in the event of a confinement zone breach?
- Will the public have access to the monitoring data provided to Region 8 and the state?

Aquifer Exemption

- How were abandoned wells in the affected environment determined?
- How were those wells plugged and abandoned?
- Is there a plan for remediation of the aquifer in the event that contamination occurs to USDW sources and the proposed mitigation measures fail to prevent the spread of that contamination?